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## **The Register, 1982-01-29**

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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# THE A&T REGISTER

"COMPLETE AWARENESS FOR COMPLETE COMMITMENT"

VOLUME LIII NUMBER 25 NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY, GREENSBORO, NC Friday, January 29, 1982

## Fort: 'Deficit Will Determine If The Athletic Program Is Strong'

By WADE NASH

Chancellor Edward B. Fort said the athletic program can become stronger depending upon how the university and its athletic office handles the deficit and the possibility of recruiting more in-state athletes.

"We have a deficit that I inherited as the new chancellor that could be anywhere from \$200,000 to \$300,000 or more," he said. Fort said he would not know the exact figure until the auditors finished their work, which was to begin this month.

The Athletic Department projected its total receipts for the year would be \$600,000, which would come from student athletic fees (\$302,000), gate receipts (\$212,500), auxiliary funds (\$45,000), other school guarantees (\$2,000), program sales (\$2,000) and miscellaneous receipts such as concessions (\$32,000).

By mid-November, Fort said it became apparent that, as a direct result of a fall-off on gate receipts, the athletic program would gross at least \$100,000 less than it anticipated.

Fort said he immediately directed Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations Albert Smith to meet with Athletic Director Bert Piggott and Fiscal Affairs officials to reduce the athletic budget by \$50,000. But it was ultimately reduced by less than \$43,000.

The Athletic Department might also save money, Fort said, by in-state recruiting. Fort said he's "quite concerned" when alumni tell him about North Carolina athletes playing elsewhere in this state or out-of-state because they either have no interest in coming to A&T or because they weren't approached by the university.

"If they have an interest to come here and we can provide them with adequate financial aid, I want to concentrate on bringing N.C. athletes to our university," he said.

Fort said, in order to enhance the athletic program, the university must consider the deficit and live within its means fiscally. It must also carefully explore the prospects for increased recruitment of in-state students before seeking blue-chip athletes elsewhere in the country.

Fort says the route A&T will take concerning Division I status depends on the recommendation of the "athletic task force" that he appoints this spring. That task force is responsible for reviewing the athletic program's current status, policies, how it governs its human and fiscal resources, its program resources and recruiting policies.

"After I've reviewed the nature of that task-force report, which should be completed by July 1, then we'll sit down with the vice chancellors, board of trustees

and faculty leadership.

"Then I'll make the decision regarding the future of this university's athletic program. Until that time, my commitment right now is to remain NCAA-Div. I and I'll remain in this position until it's shown to me that we cannot afford it, or that this university has no interest in continuing in this association."

Although A&T has this "horrendous athletic deficit," Fort said the faculty and athletic personnel believe that A&T should remain in Div. I.

"The longer we stay in (Div. I), the better our chances of growing stronger, making the play-offs and then we can get a piece of that large revenue."

Fort referred to the Howard University play-off participation that brought more than \$79,000 to their athletic program and "there's no reason that A&T can't get a piece of that action."

Dr. Fort is in the process of evaluating the progress of the football program and is concerned with how coaches managed their budget and whether or not there were any cost overruns.

He also plans to look at the coach's win/loss record and his winning percentage during that period. Football Coach Jim McKinley is 30-27-1 for a record of 52 percent for the

(See Deficit Page 5)



Alonzo Murphy (seated), Reggie Alexander watch intently in their Fabric Painting and Weaving class in Graham Hall. (Photo by Tyson)

## Summer Internships Available In Ag Extension Service

The Agricultural Extension Program is offering a summer internships for undergraduate and graduate students interested in careers in the agriculture extension service.

Interns will reside and work in selected counties throughout the state for the 12-week period of May 24th through August 13, 1982. Salary for the internship will be \$150 per week, plus an allowance for up to 500 miles traveled per month.

According to summer intern coordinator Wilda Wade, the purposes of the program are to acquaint prospective employees with career opportunities in the agriculture extension service and to enhance the preparation of personnel who enter into the service.

Applicants must be undergraduate or masters degree students who will complete their studies within two semesters following completion of the internship. Wade states that preference will be given students with grade point averages of 2.5 overall and 3.0 in their majors.

Applicants must have a valid N.C. drivers license and have an automobile available for transportation during the summer.

"Interns will be under the direct supervision of professional extension agents," Wade said; "and they will gain first-hand knowledge of how 4-H, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community and Rural Development and Home Economics relate to a total Extension Program."

Students will learn the role of county extension agents on the job and in the community, the job of each individual agent within the total organizational structure and how informal educational programs are delivered to diverse audiences, she said.

Interested students may receive applications from Room 133, Coltrane Hall. The deadline for accepting applications is February 15.

The summer intern program is jointly sponsored by A&T State and N.C. State Universities



Ms. Mattye Reed of the African Heritage Center and Michael Elliott, an engineering major, prepare artifacts for a week-long series of television appearances that she will soon be making. (Photo by Tyson)



# OPTACAN, EVA, Aids The Visually Handicapped

by AUDREY L. WILLIAMS

The Office of Veterans and Handicapped Student Affairs offers study aids to students with visual and hearing problems.

The program recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Board of Governors to obtain equipment for handicapped students.

"We have somewhere in the neighborhood of 100

handicapped students," explained Norma Pennix, director of the program.

The program has only 12 registered handicapped students, two of whom are visually impaired.

Many handicapped students are unaware of the programs' services or, according to Pennix, "really don't like to be identified as handicapped or are too proud to come in."

One of the devices now being used is the OPTACAN Reading System, which is being used by Eric Dixon, a sophomore speech major who has been declared legally blind.

Dixon confronted Dr. Mary Tuggle, chairperson of the Speech Department, with the idea of a machine that would aid him in his studies.

Tuggle told Pennix about

Dixon's need for visual aid and Dixon was granted use of the OPTACAN by the Learning Assistance Center. The OPTACAN's estimated cost is \$3,300.

This portable visual aid consists of a small, hand-held camera and an electronic package that contains a tactile finger display.

The user moves the camera across a line on a printed page with one hand and senses letter images on the tactile display with the index finger of the other hand.

The OPTACAN transduces print images to vibratory patterns which enable a visually impaired person to read ordinary printed material independently.

Pennix said her office was trying to assess the need for another OPTACAN, as well as an Electronic Visual Aid (EVA) to be set up in F.D. Bluford Library.

EVA's estimated price is

\$2,000. It consists of a television camera, monitor, zoom lens, moveable table for scanning reading material and lens attachments for special applications.

"This is the first time the Board of Governors has ever allocated any money to us for equipment," Pennix said.

Besides purchasing equipment for the handicapped, the program has been involved in making buildings accessible to them.

"We are trying to make everything accessible to the handicapped, including all buildings. We can't renovate old buildings 100 percent," Pennix said.

She explained that the program has installed ramps, rebuilt curves and sidewalks and has made restrooms accessible to the handicapped.

"If a student is assigned to class inaccessible to him, we bring the class to him," Pennix explained.

## Christine Harris: 'Start With Your Dreams; Then Work Backwards'

By TRUDY JOHNSON

A recruiter for eight colleges and universities encouraged A&T mass communications students to seek management level jobs in their profession, but to get the proper training first.

"What are you going to be doing in 15 to 20 years? If you don't set the groundwork now, you won't get into management," said Christine Harris, director of the Consortium for the Advancement of Minorities in Journalism Education.

The Consortium is headquartered at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism in Evanston, Ill.

Harris visited A&T to recruit students for graduate school, but warned that not all prospective journalists need a graduate degree to advance.

"Nevertheless, it is a good way to sharpen journalism skills," she said. "Also, it is best to put a master's degree in front of you in your job search."

She cautioned students that, even if they obtain a graduate degree, they should begin their careers at the smaller newspapers and radio and television stations.

"Start with your dreams; then work backwards," Harris said. "Think big; plan carefully."

Harris told the students that it's better to enter a "small market with integrity," and work from there to the larger paper.

But she was unsure of how the reporters would be welcomed on some of the smaller papers.

In a survey last year by her husband, Jay Harris, dean of the Medill Journalism School, 63 percent of the country's more than 1,700 daily newspapers employed no Black journalists. Many editors said they couldn't find any qualified minorities while others refused to respond to the survey. Other white editors said their Black journalists were not as qualified as their whites.

Mrs. Harris said some of the

papers, because they are small, do not have enough money to recruit minorities.

Harris has worked in several broadcast jobs, including being a reporter at WTOP, an all-news station in Washington, D.C., and an anchor person at WIMB in Chicago.

Harris is a 1971 Indiana University graduate.

She has directed the Consortium for two years. It recruits journalism students for graduate schools at Indiana, Northwestern, and Ohio State universities, and the universities of Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri and Southern California.

The Consortium also refers students to 36 other schools.

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## LET'S TALK.

Our recruiters will be on campus February 10th. Stop by your placement office to verify date and sign up on our schedule.

**SPERRY UNIVAC**  
DEFENSE SYSTEMS DIVISION





Shown in a scene from Leslie Stevens' play "Champagne Complex" are Bill Vann (l.) and Paige Weaver. The play was performed in Williams Cafeteria Thursday night. (Photo by Daryl K. Watson)

## Champagne Complex

By Trudy Johnson

Leslie Stevens' *Champagne Complex* was presented in Williams Cafeteria Thursday as a part of the Dinner Theatre sponsored by Student Personnel Services.

*Champagne* features characters Ann Macy (Paige Weaver), Helms Fell Harper (Mike Wise) and Dr. Carter Bowen (Gene McFall).

Macy, a carefree New York magazine writer, and Harper, a serious and pompous corporation vice-president, are engaged.

Macy has trouble getting along with her future in-laws.

She suffers from the "champagne complex", which gives its victims an uncontrollable urge to disrobe after a few sips of champagne.

Harper has a difficult time explaining his fiancée to his family, so he seeks advice from his psychiatrist uncle Bowen.

Bowen treats Macy for two weeks but is unable to cure her.

He explains that her complex is rooted in her subconscious desire not to marry her fiancé because of the pressures of his career and family.

To complicate matters further, Macy falls for the psychiatrist but doesn't tell Harper.

Instead, she lets him think she is cured until she takes another sip of champagne and fakes the complex.

Harper finally calls off the engagement and Bowen and Macy's relationship emerges.

## DREAMS TOOK HER ACROSS THE WORLD AND TO THE TOP

The General Is A Nurse

"I wanted to travel, to meet people and to live in different places, but I didn't want to have to start all over again each time I went to some new place. I wanted continuity, so that I could keep on practicing the things I was learning. So I joined the Army!" says Brig. Gen. Hazel W. Johnson.

Ever since she'd been 12 years old, back in Malvern, Pennsylvania, she'd dreamed of being a nurse—but she'd never imagined becoming Chief of the Army Nurse Corp and the first Black woman Army General in the history of the United States!

"That I did not anticipate," General Johnson says. "What I did anticipate was doing my job the best I could." Which she did. During her distinguished career, General Johnson has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Award, and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Twice she has earned the Army Nurse of the Year Award, during tours of duty that took her to posts across the United States, to Korea and Japan.

She has been cited as an outstanding officer whose professional nursing talents are matched by her abilities for administration, and has been distinguished for her pioneering efforts in research and development of field sanitation equipment for use of mobile field units.

"We look at nursing and the people who do it in a little different way than in the past," General Johnson says.

She points out that men make up more than one fourth of today's Army Nurse Corps. General Johnson contrasts this to an av-



erage of less than three percent at civilian facilities.

A strong advocate of continuing studies, General Johnson received basic nursing education at Harlem Hospital, New York City; and was awarded her Bachelor's degree from Villanova University, her Master's degree from Columbia University, and her Doctorate in Nursing Administration from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

"I tell my students, being Black is an incident of birth," she says, "the work you do is your way of building a life, of meeting challenges openly and honestly."

"The Army probably offers the best challenge for nurses," she says, stressing "education opportunities, chances to get ahead, to learn nursing and to practice a number of medical specialties."

The first requirement for an Army nurse, General Johnson points out, is a Bachelor of Nursing degree, and then, "a desire to grow, to develop and progress—and to get out and get the feel of your country and the world!"

## Ghost Story

By JODY R. MARTIN

The movie "Ghost Story," is an excellent example of how experienced acting talent, combined with new but very talented young actors, helps create an exciting new movie from an old theme.

Fred Astaire, Melvyn Douglas, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and John Houseman, appearing in roles different from anything they have ever done before, perform well as they portray members of a social club that get together to eat, drink and tell ghost stories.

## THE TERRIFYING BEST-SELLER

However, they soon become involved in a "ghost story" of their own as a malevolent spirit from their past slowly diminishes their group one by one.

Craig Wasson also performs well as the son of one of the members, and he slowly becomes the focal point of the movie when he discovers that his female companion is the ghost. He also works skillfully with the major stars.

Based on the novel by Peter Straub, "Ghost Story," is a superb movie which overcomes its few minor faults, including a slow beginning and some minor plot faults, by giving viewers a methodical, intense and scary movie. It is currently playing at the Four Seasons Mall Cinema.

# Ghost Story

Peter Straub

# Auditions

Kings Productions Auditions  
University of North Carolina  
Greensboro

Elliot University Center, Phillips Room  
Thurs., Feb. 4; 3-6 p.m.

Carowinds

Midway Music Hall  
Sun., Jan. 31; 12-4 p.m.

Productions feature professionally designed scenery, costumes, staging and choreography in fully equipped theatres and outdoor stages

Singers • Dancers • Instrumentalists • Technicians  
Variety Performers • \$180-250/week

One round trip air fare will be paid to hired performers traveling over 250 miles to the park.

Contact: Live Shows, Carowinds, Box 240516, Charlotte, NC 28224  
or: Kings Productions, Entertainment Dept., 1932 Highland Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219



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The Public Program Committee of F.D. Bluford Library will presents the following events during Black History Month, centered around the theme, Afro-American Blueprint For Survival:"

Feb. 3, 7 p.m., "An Evening With Richard Wright," featuring Dr. Brian Benson, 7 p.m.



## 'The Breaks...'

Budget cuts spare no one and, alas, the *A&T Register* falls into this category. In a meeting last semester with officials responsible for executing the wishes of the Student Senate, *Register* staffers were told that despite our need, money was tight and everyone must experience a budget cut (But at the same time, other organizations received budget increases).

Some administrators said students thought one paper a week might suffice. *Register* staffers find that statement odd because fewer papers are found scattered in dormitories and academic buildings compared to last year. And, since the *Register* prints less than one copy per student (3,500 copies), the "too many copies" assertion is absurd. At another fall semester meeting produced similar results and administrators told the staff that everyone must make do with what they have. Or, as

disco rap king Kurtis Blow proclaimed on his debut single, "These are the breaks." So, as it was said to the *Register* staff, so shall it be done to the Aggie family. This newspaper is a love labor, a task involving many hours of hard work. The students usually receive little praise for their efforts, but they continue because they want to inform the Aggies. This paper is also a stepping stone for students in the Mass Communications Program. It helps them gain writing skills valuable to anyone seeking a job in journalism or broadcasting. And, since the administration can not consider a journalism degree program here until it gauges the success of the new engineering master's degree programs, the *Register* and radio station *WNAA* are students' only link with real mass communications. Aggies can expect fewer issues (about 14) during the remainder of this semester. The staff will still do its best to keep you informed. Only our frequency will diminish. 'Tis painful to bring sad tidings to the readership but, "These are the breaks..."

## The A&T Register

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## Behave Yourself!

By Tony Moore

When you were growing up (those of you who have reached maturity), I'll bet you couldn't go as far as your next door neighbor's basement to play without your mother warning you to be on your best behavior. And most of you probably obeyed, for you knew what awaited in the wake of any misbehavior.

Most of you probably didn't do things to upset and/or embarrass your mother.

Conceivably, you possessed just that much love and respect for her.

Others of you, unfortunately, rebelled against Mother's disciplining and honored probably few, if any, of her requests.

Seemingly, that behavior and attitude has carried over into your adult life, followed you away from home and all the way to college.

Some of you, and you know who you are, continue that ignorant practice of "showin' out" when away from home.

Like the two young men from A&T who recently chose to settle some

personal difference at the fore of a popular Greensboro shopping center.

There were harsh and cutting words, threats, a challenge, an acceptance and a needless scuffle.

And amid all the to-do, nothing was accomplished.

The fellas might have released some deep-seated anger or frustration; they may have saved face in the presence of their friends. But, more's the pity, they gave a rousing performance for the shopping passersby.

As if this institution hasn't more than enough problems to suffer, as if this city's one-eyed media didn't exist, as if there were no state governing boards and system presidents waiting to sever the university's lifeline, as if this country's governing body were not slowly and progressively daily turning blatantly racist, as if the only difficulty A&T faced was whether or not her charges liked each other, she must be forced to contend with the ignorance of the likes of chauvinistic pseudo-machomen.

*It be a shame!*

## 365 Days A Year

By Audrey L. Williams

Black History Month is steadily approaching and there will be many cultural activities on campus in which students can take part.

Black History Month recognizes outstanding Black achievers in their professions who have contributed to the country's cultural growth and productivity.

Cultural exhibits will be shown at A&T's renowned African Heritage Center, which has artifacts from about 35 African nations and Haiti.

If students still believe Black is beautiful, then attending some of these cultural events won't pose a problem for all of you proud people.

If a competency test on Black culture were given, there would probably be a lot of failures. And they would occur because of people's benign neglect and failure to get involved in activities that could enrich their knowledge of Black history.

"Two-to-sixing" at the Trevi might be some students' idea of Black culture, but the choreography of African rituals can be much more fulfilling.

Although the contributions of Blacks are only nationally recognized one month a year, Black should celebrate their proud, rich history 365 days a year.





... outstanding performance deserves special recognition.

Juniors enrolled in ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING should check their departmental bulletin board for details on the SPERRY INTERN PROGRAM. (A 3.2/4.0 GPA is required.)

We will be conducting interviews on 2/8/82

Check your departmental bulletin board for further details.

## Counselors Help Residents Celebrate Their Birthdays

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS

Birthday celebrations are special to everyone, but students may become disillusioned when they are away from home on that special day.

But in Cooper Hall, the counselors remember each resident by giving her a birthday party.

Jacqueline Lindsay, day counselor for Cooper Hall, said she got the idea from Marylou Bowers, outreach counselor.

"When we first started out, we used the lock out money," Lindsay explained.

The lockout money is money collected from residents each time they are locked out of their rooms. A counselor opens a resident's room door at a cost of twenty-five cents.

"We would put certain months together because if we put them separately, someone would feel left out," Lindsay said.

Wednesday night, a birthday party was held for students with birthdays in September and January.

Lindsay said she has received positive responses and feels that it is a good way for the girls to get to know each other.

"I get really excited before every party. It gives me a sense of fulfillment and it makes the girls feel good," she said.

With candy sales soaring in the office of Cooper Hall, the parties, according to Lindsay, get better everytime because the money helps her purchase bigger and better refreshments.

"As far as I know, we're the only dormitory doing this for the girls," Lindsay said.

She also said she didn't feel she was doing more than her share as a counselor.

"I think it's a part of my job to initiate these programs in the dorm for the girls," Lindsay explained.

## Deficit —

(Continued From Page 1)

past four years.

Whether or not 52 percent is bad will be determined by Vice Chancellor Albert Smith and Athletic Director Bert Piggott, Fort said.

Fort intends to follow the same procedure for Basketball Coach Don Corbett and then Fort will follow the same plans for all other sports.

Fort realizes that A&T has a long-term indebtedness with the stadium, "but there are still a large number of pledges that haven't been paid."

When these pledges are paid, Fort said, "They'll greatly reduce this debt."

**Female Students:**  
Rooms available for \$125 per month. Utilities included. Semi-furnished. Will require security deposit. Call 273-9007 after 9 p.m.

# JUNIORS! EARN UP TO \$10,000 WHILE COMPLETING YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE.



If you're a junior in good academic standing and of good moral character, the U.S. Coast Guard can help you pay for your senior year of college. Through the *Enlisted College Student Program* the Coast Guard will pay you while you complete your education. Among other benefits you get:

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**How It Works:** You apply for this program during your junior year. If you are selected to attend Officer Candidate School, you will be enlisted into the regular Coast Guard for four years. During the summer following your junior year, you attend eight weeks of basic training at Cape May, New Jersey, as an enlisted person drawing full pay. You advance to the grade of Seaman Apprentice upon successful completion of recruit training, then return to college for your senior year. During your senior year you will be in the Coast Guard, on active duty and drawing full pay and allowances (approximately \$895 per month). Wearing a uniform to class is not required and your only duty will be to earn your degree, whereupon assignment to the next available OCS class follows. The 17 week-long school is conducted at Yorktown, Virginia. Upon graduation from OCS you receive your commission as an Ensign in the Coast Guard Reserve to begin serving a three year active duty commitment. Your commissioned starting salary will be at least \$16,000 per year while you accomplish some of the most important work in the country—performing search and rescue missions—protecting our coastlines, waterways and environment—regulating our 200 mile economic control zone—intercepting narcotics traffic.

**How To Apply:** To see if you qualify for this program, call Lt. (jg) Stephen Jackson collect, Monday-Thursday, 6:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M., at 202-426-1823, or you may write him at: Commandant (G-PMR-3), U.S. Coast Guard 2100 2nd Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20593.

HELP OTHERS. HELP YOURSELF.

# THE U.S. COAST GUARD



## CAMPUS HAPS

**TELOCA**, the Student Nursing Association, will meet 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Noble Hall reading room. All nursing majors are urged to attend.

**The Butler Did It**, a suspense-filled comedy whodunit, in two-acts, will be presented by the Theatre Department for its major spring production. Auditions for major and minor roles will be 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in Paul Robeson Little Theatre. For further information, contact Linda Harris, Room 312 Crosby Hall 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m. Thursdays or phone 379-7900 or 7468.

**Bill Cosby** narrates the film *Black History: Lost, Stolen or Strayed* to be shown 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Southeast Branch of the Greensboro Public Library.

All international students are invited to attend an international friendship party 7 p.m. Feb. 6, at Immanuel Baptist Church, 2432 High Point Road. Please wear your national dress if possible.

All international students enrolled for the 1982 spring semester must register with the International Student Office (Old Barnes Building) before Feb. 15.

The Social Service Club will have an important meeting 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Gibbs Hall, Room 236. Please attend.

All International Students enrolled for the 1982 spring semester must register with the International Student Office (Old Barnes Building) before Feb. 15.

Anyone interested in joining the A&T Chapter of the Greensboro Jaycees please meet 6 p.m. Feb. 5 in the Memorial Student Union.

The freshman class will be selling pink red & white carnations at \$1 a stem beginning Monday in Williams Cafeteria.

The English Lecture Series will open the spring semester with a lecture by Dr. S.H. Ferguson, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., in the Memorial Student Union, Room 213. Dr. Ferguson will discuss some aspects of Charles Chestnutt's writing.

Feb. 14, 5 p.m., "Blueprint for Survival." Religion: Rev. Cardes Brown and the New Light Baptist Church Choir; Education: Dr. Frenise Logan; Legal Protection: Atty. Joseph Williams.

## A&T To Host Howard, Delaware

By RICHARD WILLIAMS

A&T's thrashing of the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore Monday primed the team for two very tough conference games this weekend as it hosts Howard University and Delaware State University in Corbett Sports Center.

"Howard and Delaware are playing much better ball than in our previous meetings with them," said Coach Corbett. "Howard features the best personnel in the conference. They are a seasoned ball club capable of exploding at anytime."

The Bison boast a lineup of 5-10, 6-5, 6-8, 6-9 and 6-10.

They bring into the contest a 4-2 conference mark and are 7-7 in all games.

How will Corbett counter Howard's superior inside strength and possible first round selection James Ratiff?

"We will go with our strength which is our inside game and a lot of prayers," said the third year coach.

"It will be impossible to stop Ratiff, so what we'll do is concentrate on shutting down the other four."

Some fans think the Aggies will control the tempo and force Howard into a half court game.

Saturday night the Aggies will attempt to show how



With the help of his bench, Coach Corbett turned back the WSSU Rams again this year in the season opener.

## Corbett: 'Our Bench Attitude Says If We're A Good Or Great Team

By RICHARD WILLIAMS

There are not many basketball coaches who can say what Aggie Coach Don Corbett can about this season.

Corbett has five players on his bench who all had been starters on a regular basis at one point in their collegiate careers.

Much to the delight of Corbett, the overall attitudes of the non-starters are very positive also.

"Our bench has been our salvation. The attitude that we exhibit from the bench determines whether we are to be a good team or a great team," he said.

"I have watched guys at Atlantic Coast Conference schools and they cheer for their teammates. This is what exhorts them on: Knowing that we over here (on the bench) are behind them."

Are there any complaints about playing time from the former starters? Corbett,

already slumped in an easy chair, seemed to slump even further.

"P.T. (playing time) is important. But not in the sense of how many minutes you are in the ball game. I look at what a player does while he's in the game, not the amount of time he is in the game," said last season's Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

Corbett believes every player has a role, whether he is a starter or the sixth man.

"Our players are learning to accept their roles. They have to if we are to have a successful program," he added.

The return of Artie Gaines, who started two years ago, has added experience and depth to the bench.

"Artie started for us two years ago. He did not play last year. However, he came back this year and has accepted his role," said Corbett.

Gaines, a natural guard, has been playing around the basket more than he has been accustomed to.

"Artie has no business inside. But because of our depth problem up front, I've had to play Artie on the wing and occasionally at strong forward. Artie's a very heady ball player," said Coach Corbett.

A native of Atlanta, Ga. 6 ft. 4 in. junior Kenny Boddie has also been relegated to a reserve role, after starting in his freshman year. Though he doesn't see a lot of action now, Boddie remains an inspiration to his teammates.

"I'm down for whatever helps the team; even if it means sacrificing my playing," said the former high school high jumper.

"To be conscious of your role is important. Playing time is something I don't worry

about. That's up to the coach. But if I'm needed, I'm ready."

Affected most by their demotion to reserve roles could be James "Chicken Man" Horace and Ron Stinchcomb. Both of these players started all last season and they were always focused upon.

Stinchcomb proved he could play with anyone when he more than held his own against Duke in last year's National Invitational Tournament.

Since then, the spotlight has not been as bright.

How does someone accustomed to playing 30-plus minutes adjust to a substitute role?

"At first, I took it hard because I wasn't used to it (riding the bench). But now I've adjusted. It's not that much different now since my playing time has recently picked up," Stinchcomb said.

"I just go out and give my best effort."

The 5-11 junior acknowledged the importance of team cohesiveness.

"I think our attitude is pretty good. We've all in this together and we're behind them 100 percent. We're just eager to contribute; that's all," said the College Park, Ga. native.

Contributing is what "Comb" has been doing since he first donned an Aggie uniform. Only now he is contributing from a different but equally important standpoint.

"I have an important role," said Stinchcomb. "I know the players and their style because of my experience. I know what 'coach' wants out of certain players and when."

How does A&T's bench stack up in the conference?

"We have the strongest (See Bench Page 7).

(See A&T Page 8)





Members of the Aggiette softball team prepare for the season.

## Bench

(Continued From Page 6)

bench in the MEAC. Down the stretch the bench will play an important role. And we have a bench that can play with anyone," he added.

Brian Booker, a 6-2 sophomore has also adjusted to life of the pine. A native of Michigan, Booker was a starter last season.

"Initially, I had mixed emotions. I didn't understand why. But now I just try to do my best," he said.

Booker came in the game late against University of North Carolina at Wilmington and scored some key baskets to aid in an overtime victory.

"I just wanted to win. If given the opportunity, I can

contribute," he said of his performance.

Coach Don Corbett, a former football and basketball player, believes a chain is as strong as its weakest link. If the Aggies can keep all of its links connected, they should sail smoothly from here to the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

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# THE SPORTS REPORT

By WADE NASH

This weekend the Aggies will entertain the Howard University Bison and the Delaware State Hornets. Aggie Coach Don Corbett has posted road victories over both teams but he's concerned about both clubs and emphasized the fact that his clubs need both wins.

Corbett said, "When we play Howard, it will be an entirely different game. Howard didn't play as well as they could have against us earlier in the year and they can't afford to do that this time. Howard already has two conference losses and, if we beat them here, it will be difficult for the Bison to win the championship."

The Bison have one of the tallest front lines in the conference in 6-11 center James Terry, 6-9 forward James Ratiff and 6-9 Lawrence Norfleet. The Bison backcourt is in the hands of 5-10" point guard Rodney Wright and 6-5 Bernard Perry is a two year starter and one of the better outside shooters in the conference.

The Aggie-Howard contest will also match the top scores in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Association with Howard's Ratiff shooting at a 20.4 clip and A&T's Joe Binion averaging 18.9. James Anderson is 8th in the conference with 14.5 and Howard's Wright and Perry are averaging 11.6 and 11.5, respectively. Perry is third in free throw with an 85.2 average.

Other close match ups will be the boards with Binion being second in the conference, pulling down 8.8 rebounds and Ratiff is a close third averaging 8.7. The Bison's Terry is sixth in this category, snaring 7.9 a game.

The Bison have two of the top assist leaders with Wright averaging 7.1 and Perry hands out 3.4 a game. The Aggies' James Anderson is 14th in the conference with 2.0 a game.

Binion makes 60.8 percent of his shots from the field, which makes him second in the MEAC and Anderson is fourth in the conference with a 55.8 percent field-goal average.

The Aggies are currently trailing S.C. State in the conference race with a 4-1 conference mark and 9-5 overall. The Bulldogs are 6-1 and 8-6 overall. FAMU is third with a 3-1 mark, Howard is fourth with a 4-2 mark, Delaware State and Bethune-Cookman are both 1-4 in the conference and University of Maryland-Eastern Shore is 0-6.

A&T Coach Don Corbett is confident the Aggies can win the conference.

"We've got to win the rest of our home games and this way we'll have control of our own destiny. If Binion can play with intensity in Corbett gym and our bench continues to contribute, we'll be in good shape. We have control over our own future," he said.

Tony Thomas is missing from the Aggie club but that was his decision. Thomas decided that, after the Aggies returned from Tennessee State, a trip to Washington wouldn't be to his advantage.

Thomas has played the point position most of his life and wasn't happy playing small forward. Corbett said, "We didn't need Thomas at the point guard position because we were happy with the play of Eric Boyd and Ron Stinchcomb because they blend well with Anderson. I didn't mistreat Tony but when he refused to practice, I had no choice other than but to dismiss him."



## A&T

(Continued From Page 6)

For this contest, Corbett hopes to get his transition game geared at full speed.

The Aggies, 9-5 overall and 4-1 in the MEAC, hit 60 percent of their shots in their last outing.

If A&T is to have a chance at a couple of wins this weekend, freshman Eric Boyd must snap out of what Corbett calls "a mild slump".

"Yes, Eric is in a mild shooting slump right now. But he's a good ball player and to bench him might destroy his confidence," Corbett said.

"This kid has a great future. He has pulled us through some games this year and will for three more years. I have to stick with Eric. He's our bread and butter."

Boyd may be his bread and butter, but spectators think Anderson and Binion aren't too bad when the going gets tough.

"Doc and Binion are certainly high caliber players," Corbett explained, "but I don't like to get in a situation where I have to go to one or two players. I would like to be able to go with anyone."

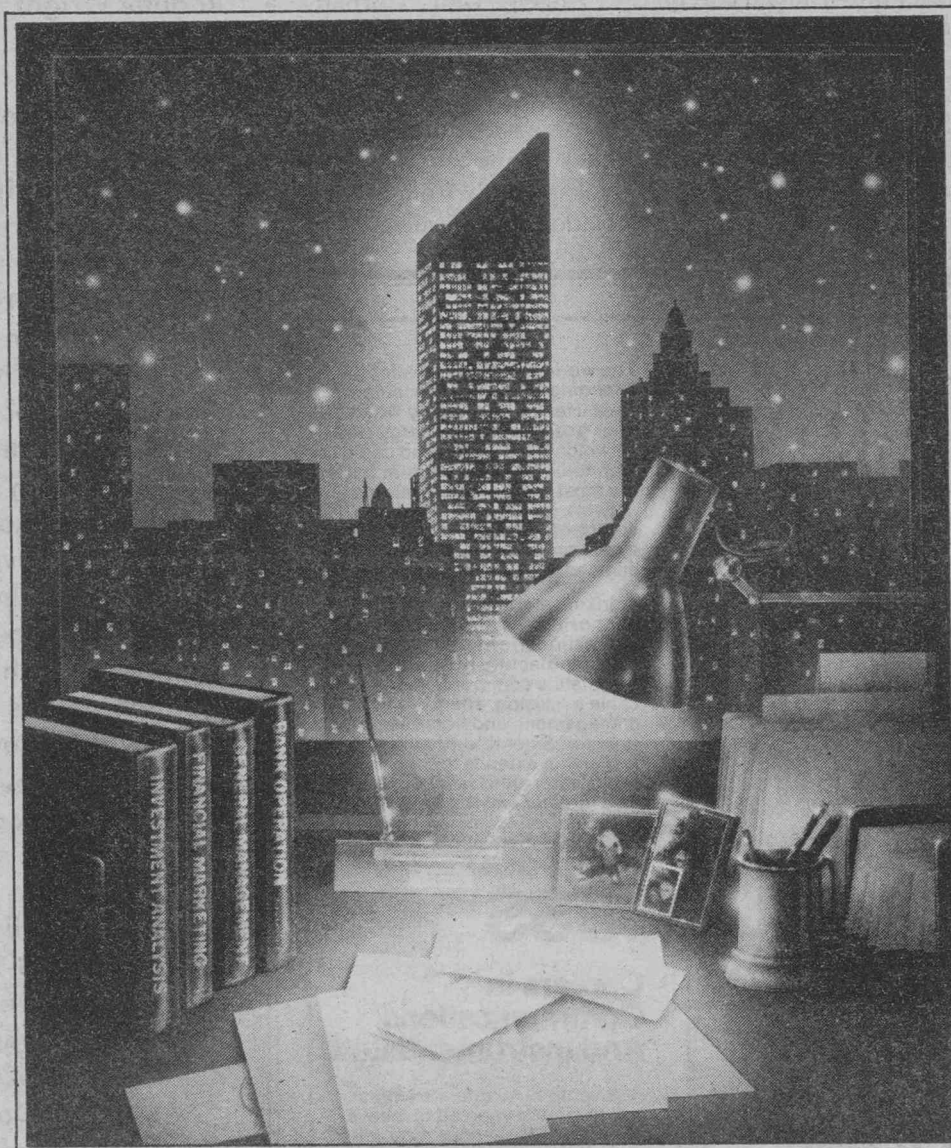


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